Published: Aug. 19, 2013, *Kokomo Tribune* [Page: A3]

http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/local_news/article_184cddc0-7604-569f-ac64-b83a81ceaf71.html

Question Time: Best television series endings

Which TV show wrapped itself up the best?

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note**: To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

There's now only six episodes left for "Breaking Bad," widely regarded as one of the best television shows ever. So, we wondered: "In your opinion, what television show has the best series ending and why?" We're again tweaking the format this week because "M*A*S*H" was clearly the audience favorite. (It's probably no small coincidence that the final, movie-length "M*A*S*H" episode, "Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen," reigned for many years as the most-watched television broadcast in U.S. history with 125.59 million viewers.)

'M*A*S*H'

"No question. 'M*A*S*H.' It had everything. Full range of emotions. Best ever." — **Jeff Reid**

“‘M*A*S*H,’ of course. No question.” — **Guy Osborne**

“‘M*A*S*H.’ No other can beat it.” — **Dolores Medlen**

YOUR (OTHER) ANSWERS

“‘Newhart,’ because it came out of nowhere. It was the perfect ending by an amazing comedic talent.” — **Mike Geiselman**

“‘Weeds,’ indeed! One of the best and more true than you might think.” — **Jesse Riggs**

“‘Friends.’ It was great when they all laid their individual keys for the apartment on the counter, even though the door was never locked. And the last shot of the series zoomed in on the door with the frame around the peep hole, I love it.” — **Mandy Rhoades**

OUR ANSWERS

“I haven’t watched ‘Breaking Bad,’ but my best ending probably would have to be ‘M*A*S*H.’ I watched it all the time since my uncle actually served in Korea and was a POW.” — **Mike Fletcher**

“It’s amazing how few final episodes of series I’ve seen. Usually, my interest wanes as a show runs out of steam and I stop watching. I watched ‘Buffy the Vampire Slayer’ religiously. It got the axe late when Sarah Michelle Bighead decided to leave, so they wrapped things up quickly and I don’t even remember what happened. ‘Angel’ got the same treatment (late axe) but I do remember how that ended — with the cast members jumping into the fray in what looked like an unwinnable situation. I liked that unknown. I don’t remember how ‘Northern Exposure’ ended, either. They suffered a key cast defection in the final season and it ended quite unremarkably. The ‘M*A*S*H’ ending was awful, but that show had been dying a slow death for ages. But fugettaboutit, it’s clearly ‘The Mary Tyler Moore Show.’ First, it was probably the best comedy there ever was anyway (with consideration for the first ‘The Bob Newhart Show,’ ‘Seinfeld’ and ‘The Larry Sanders Show.’) Second, it’s the most memorable ending. Legend. A minor nod also to the ‘Thirtysomething’ finale, which I sorta remember even though I haven’t seen an episode of that show in 10 years. It was pretty good, but it was more showing that the show can’t go on. Much more satisfying than some of the ones I panned earlier, though nothing like the top ones.” — **Pedro Velazco**

“I think the final episode of ‘Breaking Bad’ has the potential to overtake the top spot depending on how they play it. However, I haven’t seen the series finales of ‘M*A*S*H,’ ‘Friends,’ ‘Weeds,’ ‘Buffy the Vampire Slayer,’ ‘Angel,’

‘Thirtysomething,’ or ‘Northern Exposure,’ so there’s that to consider. ‘Newhart’ was very clever, but that’s only show that should ever end like that for rest of time. No one else needs to replicate it. ‘The Mary Tyler Moore Show’ ending was also very solid. Having said all that, here’s my top three:

3. ‘The Office’ (BBC): A television show has never made me laugh or cry so hard as that final two-part Christmas special. I can still remember how I felt watching the Brent-meister General finally standing up to Finchy, and Tim and Dawn’s last scene like it was yesterday. Sigh…

2. ‘Six Feet Under’ (HBO): I was on my feet clapping for the last few minutes of the final episode. It was just so perfect for the show. What an ending!

1. ‘The Sopranos’ (HBO): A lot of people hated this one, but I just loved it. It’s the greatest non-ending ending there ever has been or ever will be. When it first aired people thought their cable went out at the end. Ha! As one of the Facebook commenters, Marc Reed, said, ‘Love that it was left to the imagination.’ Isn’t that always better than having everything spelled out for you? Anyway, if you pay attention to the final scene, especially the way the camera follows that one guy who comes in the diner at the same time as A.J., it’s not hard to figure out what became of Tony Soprano.” — **Rob**

Burgess

Rob Burgess, Tribune night editor, may be reached by calling 765-454-8577, via email at rob.burgess@kokomotribune.com or on Twitter at twitter.com/robaburg.